

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 249474

12

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 VO-03 RSC-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RJDOLS:AMH

APPROVED BY AF/S:WPO'NEILL

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R 212245Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 249474

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OTRA, SF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN VISAS

1. WASHINGTON OFFICE OF WATCH TOWER SOCIETY (JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES) HAS REQUESTED DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE OBTAINING VISAS FOR TWO OF SOCIETY'S MEMBERS, SURNAMES SUITER AND HENSCHEL, FIRST NAMES UNAVAILABLE. SUITER AND HENSCHEL APPLIED FOR VISAS TO SOUTH AFRICAN CONGEN NEW YORK IN EARLY DECEMBER TO INSPECT SOME OF SOCIETY'S PROPERTIES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND TO ATTEND SOCIETY CONVENTION THERE JANUARY 2-6, 1974. VISAS WERE INITIALLY REFUSED, NO REASONS GIVEN, BUT ON ADVICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY SUITER AND HENSCHEL REAPPLIED IN NEW YORK. THEY INFORMED TODAY THAT REFUSALS REAFFIRMED.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE INQUIRIES DFA AND INFORM DEPARTMENT. IF APPEARS THAT REFUSALS ARE BASED SOLELY ON SAG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SOCIETY AND NOT RELATED TO INDIVIDUALS, EMBASSY IN ITS DISCRETION MAY EXPRESS ITS CONCERN AND REQUEST IMMEDIATE RECONSIDERATION. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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